

**Transportation Funding Task Force
Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center
October 13, 2008**

Final Meeting Minutes

The meeting began at 9:04 a.m.

Members Present: Sen. Glenn Anderson, Rep. Pam Byrnes, Cindy Elliott, Sen. Jud Gilbert, Dennis Gillow, John James, Rep. Phil LaJoy, Ann Jousma-Miller, Mike Nystrom, Roger Salo, Rich Studley, Peter Varga, Susan Zehnder

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Gillow and the task force members introduced themselves for the benefit of the audience. The agenda for the meeting and the minutes from the September 29th meeting were unanimously approved. Public comment was offered in the morning, noon and late afternoon sessions.

Public Comment

Lisa Morris (Perficient, Inc Consulting) pointed out her experience with public private partnerships out west and offered herself as a resource.

Rep. Sheltroun welcomed the task force to Roscommon. Stated that issue of transportation is a bipartisan issue, and so important that it should not be politicized.

Lance Malburg (Oceana County Road Commission) provided a letter recommending that the proposed investments recommended by the Task Force be run through the PA 51 distribution formula to ensure that sufficient revenue is provided to bring the transportation system up to “good condition.”

Rich Lehman (Levy Trucking Company) discussed how congestion impacts his business and by implementing efficiencies to reducing congestion it benefits everyone, including the environment.

Presentations

Craig Garthwaite, Public Sector Consultants, presented information on a report commissioned by MITA to examine the viability of the gas tax in Michigan and discussed an alternative funding strategy through an ad Valorem tax on the wholesale price of gasoline.

James Koslosky provided an overview of the Aviation CAC report on efficiencies. There were no questions from the Task Force.

Bob Struck provided an overview of the Highway Road and Bridge CAC report on efficiencies. He also acknowledged the Task Force's previously mentioned concern that the report contained funding recommendations as well as recommended efficiencies and reforms.

Sylvester Payne provided an overview of the CAC Intermodal Passenger Report on efficiencies. Mr. Payne pointed out to the task force that the Nonmotorized and Carpool Lot programs are also part of the CAC Intermodal Passenger Subcommittee report.

John Hertel and John Swatish (Regional Transit Coordinating Council) provided an overview to the Task Force on the history of transit in Detroit, the creation of DARTA and the Regional Transit Coordinating Council, and the status of the Detroit Regional Mass Transit's Comprehensive Regional Transit Service Plan.

Tim O'Rourke (Roscommon County Road Commission) stated that Roscommon County Road Commission is seriously underfunded by \$3.8 million and costs are sky rocketing. The county is beyond efficiencies and essentially in survival mode. If any extra funding were made available, it would go to maintenance and not to new roads.

Pastor Carson (Alcona County) stated that his county is experiencing the same funding constraints. The county has not been able to purchase a new truck in three years and it takes a day or two before snow gets plowed due to fewer employees and not enough equipment.

Larry Bushong (Reith-Riley Construction Company, Inc.) stated that his business this year saw a drastic cut in its work load and a construction season shortened by two months ("literally we shut our plant down before we turned our air conditioner off."). He anticipates next year will be even worse.

Work Session – Connie Morrison and Polly Kent (Michigan Department of Transportation) provided an overview of the efficiencies, reforms, and best practices recommended by the CAC Subcommittees to the Task Force. [Task Force members affirmed the focus of the effort was on recommendations that would make the best use of existing revenue, rather than increase revenue. Items in the CAC technical subcommittee reports that specifically referenced funding were removed from the mix and placed on a separate board.] After much discussion and clarification, the Task Force members prioritized the efficiencies, reforms, and best practices that could be most effectively implemented.

Review of Draft TF2 Preliminary Report

Tim Hoeffner (Michigan Department of Transportation) solicited comments and further direction from the Task Force on the content of the draft preliminary report. In addition, discussion ensued on how best to proceed with the dissemination of the preliminary report to the Governor and Legislature at the end of October.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.